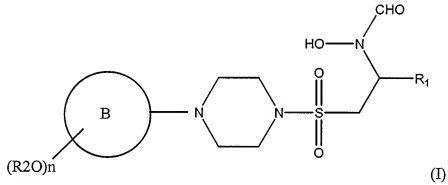
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~, prodrug or solvate~~ thereof,

wherein ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

~~R1~~ R_1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein B is monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing from one to four nitrogen ring atoms.

3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl.

4. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R2 is a C1-6 alkyl group substituted by one to five fluorine groups.

5. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R2 is substituted by three or four fluorine groups.

6. (Original) A compound according to claim 5 wherein R2 is the group - CF2CHCF2.

7. (Original) A compound according to claim 5 wherein R2 is the group –CH2CF3.

8. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 1.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein ~~R1~~ R_1 is an optionally substituted group selected from C1-4 alkyl, aryl having six ring atoms, a five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S or a C1-4 alkyl-heteroaryl group wherein the heteroaryl has up to six ring atoms and comprises one or two ring heteroatoms selected from N, O and S.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 9 wherein ~~R1~~ R_1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group

having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 9 wherein ~~R1~~ R_1 is unsubstituted.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 9 wherein ~~R1~~ R_1 is substituted by one or two substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from C1-4 alkyl, halogen, CF3 and CN.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 12 wherein ~~R1~~ R_1 is substituted by fluorine.

14. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 11 wherein ~~R1~~ R_1 is tetrahydropyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2-, 2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2CH2- or 5-F-2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2-.

15. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R2 is C1-6 alkyl, substituted by one to five fluorine groups; n is 1; ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl and ~~R1~~ R_1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.

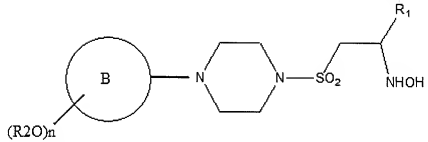
16. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~, prodrug or solvate~~ thereof, as claimed in claim 1 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 16 which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~, prodrug or solvate~~ thereof, as defined in claim 1 with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

Claims 18-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)[[,]] as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~, prodrug or solvate~~ thereof, which comprises:

converting the appropriate hydroxyamino compound of the formula (IV),



(IV)

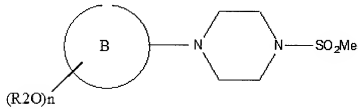
~~(~~wherein R2, n, ring B and ~~R1~~ R_1 are as defined in formula (I)~~)~~,

into a compound of formula (I) by formylation with a ~~an appropriate~~ mixed anhydride;

and optionally thereafter carrying out one or more of the following:

converting the compound obtained into a further compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 ~~according to the invention~~ and/or forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or prodrug or solvate~~ of the compound.

29. (Previously presented) A compound of formula (II)



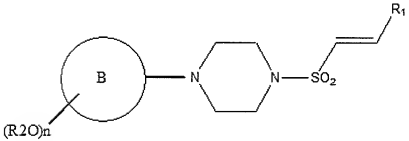
(II)

wherein ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups; and

n is 1, 2 or 3.

30. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (III)



(III)

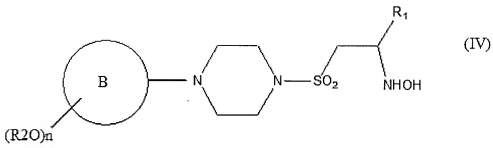
wherein ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

~~R1~~ R_1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.

31. (Previously presented) A compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

wherein ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

~~R1~~ R_1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.

32. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein the mixed anhydride is prepared from reaction of formic acid and acetic anhydride.